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THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

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Making sense of the world

# THE WEEK

## Junior

# WHAT KIDS THINK

The results of our annual survey reveal young people's opinions on current events, school life, issues facing the world, and more **p12**





# This week's big news



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The US Department of Agriculture was established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

**Food banks are seeing increased demand.**

## How you can help



**Nonprofit groups like Feeding America, No Kid Hungry, and Feed the Children provide food for people in need. If you'd like to help, talk to an adult about what you can do. Options include donating money to an organization of your choice or collecting items for a local food drive or food pantry.**

# Report released on hunger in America

A new report released by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on October 25 said that hunger among American families rose sharply in 2022. Elected leaders and advocates for those affected by food insecurity are working to help.

## What are the findings?

The USDA reported that nearly 13% of US households were food insecure in 2022, meaning they lacked reliable access to enough nutrition to lead healthy, active lives. More than 44.2 million Americans, including 13.4 million children, lived in homes that didn't always have enough to eat—an increase of about 30% (or 10.3 million people) over 2021. Food insecurity was highest among Black and Latino families and single-parent homes headed by women. Food instability rose most in the South and in rural areas.

## Why is hunger worsening?

In 2022, the US government ended programs that helped families during the Covid-19 pandemic, including free school meals, tax breaks for families, and increased benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps families buy groceries. At

the same time, food prices increased by 9.9% due to inflation (rise in the cost of goods and services). Meanwhile, a growing percentage of people have unstable jobs with inconsistent incomes, such as driving for ride-share services.

## How have people reacted?

"These numbers are more than statistics," said US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who heads the USDA. "They paint a picture of just how many Americans [are] struggling to meet a basic need for themselves and their children." Aid organizations said the numbers reflect what they have been seeing. "Our food banks



**School lunch programs help fight hunger.**

across the country have been reporting exceedingly high demand," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, head of Feeding America, an organization that works to reduce poverty-related hunger. Advocates called on the government to take steps to slow the spread of food insecurity. "There is no excuse for anyone going hungry in America," said Luis Guardia, president of the Food Research & Action Center, a group working to end hunger in America. "Congress must act now to make substantial investments in anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs."

## What is being done to help?

A combination of government, community, business, and individual action is taking place. Several members of Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) have proposed starting new programs, including some that would increase access to healthy school meals nationwide, or expanding existing ones like SNAP. Two major grocery chains, Aldi and Walmart, said they will lower prices on Thanksgiving food. Food banks are asking for increased donations of money and food and more volunteers. Federal employees collected more than 10 million pounds of donations for food banks this year, an increase of more than 2.2 million pounds over 2022.

## What will happen next?

Funding for some US food assistance programs is determined by the federal budget, which is currently being debated by Congress. Some lawmakers have proposed cuts in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which provides food, nutrition education, and other support. Others are fighting to block those cuts. Congress is also continuing to negotiate the latest version of the Farm Bill, which covers numerous nutrition assistance programs for families, including SNAP. The deadline to finalize the budget is November 17.





## China launches space mission

On October 26, three astronauts with the China National Space Administration (CNSA) arrived at China's space station, Tiangong ("heavenly palace" in Chinese). Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie, and Jiang Xinlin are part of the Shenzhou-17 mission. With an average age of 38, they are Tiangong's youngest crew.

Tiangong, which launched in 2021, is the third space station ever built. The International Space Station, operated by NASA and other space agencies, has been in operation since 2000. Russia's Mir station operated from 1986 to 2001. The Shenzhou-17 crew will spend five days with the members of Shenzhou-16, who have been at the station since May 2023, before they return to Earth. During a six-month stay, the Shenzhou-17 crew will conduct scientific research and perform the station's first spacewalk.

The CNSA plans to send people to the Moon by 2030 and take samples from an asteroid (chunk of ancient space rock) by 2025. Chinese rovers are already exploring the Moon and Mars.



The astronauts



Judge Mary Moreau

**GREAT LAND**

Canada is the second largest country in the world by area, after Russia, and has one of the least dense populations.

## Female majority for Canada's top court

On October 26, judge Mary Moreau made history when she was nominated to Canada's Supreme Court (most powerful court of law). If she is sworn in, which is likely, the court will have five women and four men, giving it the first female majority since it was created in 1875.

Moreau, who was nominated to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Russell Brown in June, has been a judge in the city of Alberta since 1994 and became the first female chief justice (top judge) of the Alberta courts in 2017. Before that, she practiced criminal, constitutional, and civil law. "Throughout her impressive judicial career, Mary T. Moreau has remained dedicated to fairness and excellence," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

As the nation's top court, the Supreme Court has the final word on all legal issues of

public importance. In Canada, Supreme Court candidates must be fluent in the nation's two official languages: English and French. The court also has representatives from each of the nation's geographic regions, and Trudeau was required to appoint someone from western or northern Canada to replace Brown.

In recent years, Trudeau has been working to diversify the court. He appointed Mahmud Jamal, the court's first person of color, in 2021, and Michelle O'Bonsawin, the first Indigenous judge on the court, in 2022. "All Canadians should be able to see themselves reflected in their justice system in order to have faith in it," Moreau has said. Before her appointment is final, she will undergo review hearings by members of Parliament (similar to members of Congress).



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### A HUGE HIKE

Alfredo Aliaga, age 92, is the oldest person to hike the Grand Canyon from rim to rim. After completing the 24-mile trek, he told reporters it's never too late to achieve a big goal in life. It's "only one step after the other," he said.



Alfredo Aliaga



Hercules

### WELCOMING A FAWN

A Philippine spotted deer fawn was born at the Chester Zoo in the UK. Named Hercules, the baby boy was born to parents Nova and Cosmos. About 300 of the highly endangered species live in the wild. The zoo said the "little bundle of fur" is doing great and has taken his first steps.

### A FINAL SONG

One last song featuring all four members of the Beatles has been released. "Now and Then" was created using AI technology to restore vocals by John Lennon, who died in 1980, and guitar by George Harrison, who died in 2001. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr added new material. "It was very emotional," Starr said.



The Beatles

NOW AND THEN



## DID YOU KNOW?

Australia, which gained its independence from the UK in 1901, is both a country and a continent.

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden (right) with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Jodie Haydon

## The most state dinners



Ronald Reagan

The 40th US President, Ronald Reagan, held 59 state dinners—more than any other President. In a significant one, in 1987, he hosted Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union (USSR), which was a country made up of what are now 15 nations, including Russia. The dinner was held after the US and USSR agreed to reduce their buildup of nuclear weapons.

# White House hosts Australian leader

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden welcomed the top leader of Australia, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and his partner, Jodie Haydon, to an official state dinner at the White House on October 25. The event highlighted the strengthened partnership between the US and Australia to ensure peace in the Pacific Rim (the geographical area surrounding the Pacific Ocean).

## What is a state dinner?

A state dinner is a formal event that allows a US President to honor a leader who is officially visiting from another country. At the event, the two leaders exchange toasts in a show of diplomacy. Presidents have hosted more than 300 state dinners since the tradition began in 1874. This was the fourth state dinner the Bidens have hosted.

## Who were some of the guests?

Among the approximately 325 people who attended the state dinner were members of Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York, and Senator John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota. Other guests included Caroline Kennedy, the US ambassador to Australia, actor John Leguizamo, and Australian performers Vance Joy and Kid Lari.

## What were some of the details?

The flowers and table decorations included light blue and purple colors, inspired by the “crisp American autumn” and “vibrant Australian spring,” Jill Biden said. The autumn menu, created by award-winning chef Katie Button, featured butternut squash soup, roasted beet salad, and

short ribs. The meal ended with hazelnut and chocolate mousse cake and ice cream.

## What happened at the event?

The entertainment portion of the evening was adjusted because of the widespread sorrow over the war in the Middle East, Jill Biden said. Instead of a performance by the B-52s, a rock band, the US Marine Band and the Army and Air Force Strolling Strings provided music. Before the event, President Biden and Albanese discussed how their countries have expanded their military presence in the Pacific Islands. “We must continue to advance freedom, security, and prosperity for all,” Biden said. Albanese replied that Australia “has no greater friend” than the US. “We stand as close as we have ever been,” he said.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### MARBLE

A new study has found that the white Parthenon Sculptures from ancient Greece, also known as the Elgin Marbles, were first painted in vibrant colors. The sculptures are made of marble, a form of limestone that takes its name from the Greek *marmaros*, meaning “shining stone.”

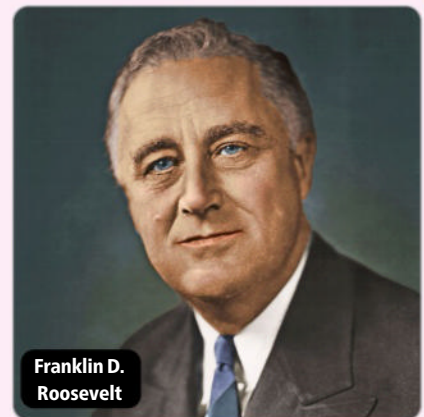


## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### November 5, 1940

Franklin D. Roosevelt wins third term

On November 5, 1940, Franklin D. Roosevelt became the only US President elected to a third four-year term. Until that time, no President had served more than two terms. Roosevelt decided to run for a third term due to recent developments in World War II (1939–1945) and was also elected to a fourth term. Starting in 1953, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution limited Presidents to two terms.



Franklin D. Roosevelt

GETTY IMAGES (4)





Mike Johnson

## Speaker of the House elected

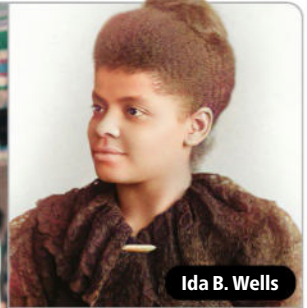
On October 25, Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, was elected Speaker of the House, the top position in the House of Representatives. The job was vacant after Kevin McCarthy was forced out and three lawmakers nominated to replace him did not receive enough support. The vote for Johnson was 220–209, with all Republicans supporting him and all Democrats voting for Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat from New York.



Stacey Park Milbern



Althea Gibson



Ida B. Wells



Dr. Vera Rubin



**FUN FACT**  
Susan B. Anthony, who fought for women to have the right to vote, became the first woman featured on a circulating US coin in 1979.



Juliette Gordon Low



Kids can try NaNoWriMo.

## National writing challenge begins

The National Novel Writing Month challenge, known as NaNoWriMo, is taking place throughout November to encourage people to try creative writing. The goal is for participants to write a new novel or continue with an existing one and complete it by November 30. Children under age 18 can sign up for the Young Writers Program and set their own goals. Find out more at [nanowrimo.org](http://nanowrimo.org).

## Women to be honored on US quarters

The US Mint, which makes the coins used as money in the US, has announced the five women who will appear on quarters in 2025. They are Ida B. Wells, Juliette Gordon Low, Dr. Vera Rubin, Stacey Park Milbern, and Althea Gibson.

The announcement was made as part of the American Women Quarters Program. The four-year program, which began in 2022, involves selecting five different women to be featured on coins that go into circulation each year.

Ida B. Wells (1862–1931) was a civil rights activist and journalist who spoke out against the unfair treatment of Black people. Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927) founded the Girl Scouts as an organization for girls to develop leadership skills and become advocates for their communities. Dr. Vera Rubin (1928–2016) was an astronomer who made a major discovery by confirming the existence of dark matter in the universe.

Stacey Park Milbern (1987–2020), an activist for people with disabilities, was

instrumental in the passage of a North Carolina law that requires schools to teach a disability curriculum. Althea Gibson (1927–2003) was a trailblazing athlete who became the first Black tennis player to win the French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open tennis tournaments.

The coins feature a likeness of George Washington on the “heads” side of the coin, which was designed by prominent US sculptor Laura Gardin Fraser (1889–1966).

The designs for the “tails” side, featuring the five women being honored, will be revealed in 2024. Previous honorees of the program include the writer Maya Angelou and former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The Mint’s facilities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Denver, Colorado, will manufacture the new quarters.



Maria Tallchief was featured on a quarter in 2023.

“It’s a privilege for the Mint to connect America through coins and to tell our nation’s story through honoring the women in this amazing program,” said Ventris C. Gibson, director of the Mint.



Two of the designs

## Voting stickers created by kids

New Hampshire unveiled the three winning designs from its “I Voted” Sticker Contest, which was open to fourth graders across the state. Local election officials judged more than 1,000 entries, and the top drawings included the designs above by Jacob (left) and Rilynn (right). Their artwork will be printed as “I Voted” stickers and distributed during the state’s Presidential primary in 2024.

## THE WEEK’S SILLIEST HEADLINE

“Overturned truck spills apples on Pennsylvania road” UPI







# Around the world

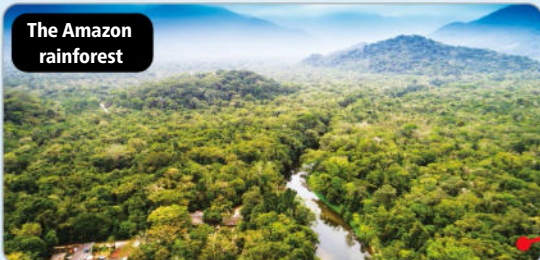


**The UN General Assembly**

## United Nations

### Nations call for a truce in Gaza

On October 27, the United Nations General Assembly voted for a “humanitarian truce” in the war between Israel and Hamas. A truce would allow aid workers to get essential supplies into Gaza, where Hamas is based and most of the fighting is happening. The vote was 121–14, with Israel and the US among the nations voting no. While the resolution is not legally binding, it is considered a measurement of global opinion on the war.



**The Amazon rainforest**



## Brazzaville, Congo

### Plan to protect world's rainforests

The Three Basins Summit in Brazzaville, held October 26–28, brought together policymakers and preservation experts to create a plan to protect the world's three largest rainforests. Leaders agreed to work together to stop deforestation (cutting down trees) in the Amazon, the Congo basin in Africa, and forests in Southeast Asia. The World Wildlife Fund called for governments to put in more effort to stop deforestation.



**The ancient carvings**



## Manaus, Brazil

### Dry weather reveals ancient carvings

An extreme drought (long period without rain) has led to record low water levels along parts of the Amazon River, revealing ancient artwork on its riverbanks. Human faces and animals etched in stone along the shore are believed to be 1,000 to 2,000 years old. The engravings were spotted in 2010 during another severe drought but had not been seen since then.



## Cabezón de la Sal, Spain

### Village bans tree-hugging

Authorities in Cabezón de la Sal are working to ban tree-hugging in a protected sequoia forest. More than 200,000 tourists visit the forest each year, and many take selfies while hugging the tall trees. As a result, the trees' bark is getting damaged and their roots are being trampled. New walkways may be created to separate tourists from the trees.



**Hugging trees may hurt them.**



## Antarctica

### Bird flu detected

Bird flu has been detected among seabirds (including the skua, shown at right) in the Antarctic for the first time. Bird flu is an infectious illness that spreads mostly among birds. There are many large colonies of birds in the Antarctic, and experts are worried that the illness could spread quickly among them. The British Antarctic Survey, a research institute, thinks the disease was carried by birds returning from their migration to South America.

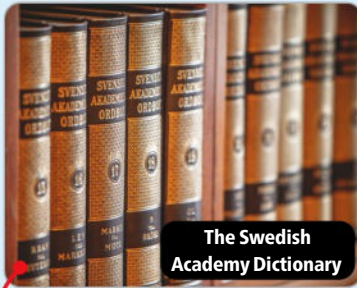


**The Antarctic skua**

GETTY IMAGES (5); SHUTTERSTOCK (3); NEW ART PRODUCTION AB; REUTERS



# Around the world



The Swedish Academy Dictionary



## Stockholm, Sweden Dictionary is (almost) finished

After 140 years, the Swedish Academy has finished its official dictionary. Since 1883, a total of 137 full-time employees have worked on the dictionary, which is 33,111 pages long and split into 39 volumes. Some early volumes are now so old, however, that they need to be updated to include modern words, such as “app” and “computer.”



The Garisenda tower (left)



## Bologna, Italy Leaning tower causes concern

City officials closed the square where a historical 12th-century tower famously leans to one side, due to concerns about its stability. Bologna’s Garisenda tower (which stands beside the taller Asinelli tower) has always tilted, but sensors recently detected more movement. Microphones were fitted inside the tower to detect any cracking sounds. Bologna’s mayor said, “It’s a symbol of the city, and we must guarantee its safety.”



King Al-Sultan Abdullah (left) and Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar



## Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Royal families choose a new king

A new king who will rule for five years has been chosen by Malaysia’s nine royal families. Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar from Johor will take over from the current king, Al-Sultan Abdullah, in January 2024. The position as the head of state is traditionally ceremonial, meaning the king isn’t active in running the country. However, because of political instability in recent years, the king has had greater influence in government affairs.



A Melbourne fashion show



## Melbourne, Australia Black models protest racism in fashion

More than a dozen Black models boycotted Melbourne Fashion Week, from October 23–29, to protest racism in Australia’s fashion industry. The models said they are paid less than white models and experience other mistreatment. Model Jeffrey Kissubi told the BBC news service, “When a group of us comes forward, it has more impact.”



## Cape Town, South Africa Education bill passed

South Africa’s parliament (similar to Congress) has passed the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA), which aims to overhaul the country’s education system. Included in the bill is a provision that parents could face up to 12 months in jail if their children skip school or aren’t enrolled in school when they reach the eligible age. Opponents of the bill say it gives the government too much control over schools.



Skipping school could get parents punished.



# The big debate

# Does digital art count as real art?

Some people say art made with technology is not the same as work created by hand.

## What you need to know

- The term “digital art” was first used in the 1980s by an artist who built a computer to make large drawings.
- The term refers to any artwork that uses technology in the creative process, including computers, software, tablets, and cell phones.
- The artwork can include computer animations, digital photographs, computer illustrations, videos, digital paintings, and even 3D sculptures.
- Digital art pieces have sold for millions of dollars.



In the 1960s and 1970s, visual artists began using a new technology—computers—to create art. Some programmed mathematical algorithms that generated geometric designs, while others made abstract images. Later, photographers began using digital tools to alter their images, and computer-generated animation was developed, which led to the animated films we know today. Now artists can create paintings on their phones, design sculptures on a tablet, and even take a hand-painted work and enhance it digitally. Still, many people feel that art that isn't created entirely by hand doesn't count. What do you think? Does digital art count as real art?

## Yes—if it's powerful, it's art

The definition of art is something beautiful or emotionally moving that is created with skill and imagination. If digital art inspires appreciation or awe, then it fulfills the mission of art. From streaming services to portable devices, the world is more digital. Why should art be different? The artist is still mastering apps and programs to make it and putting their vision, talent, creativity, and effort into the work. Art is always evolving—painting and sculpture came before photography, right? Digital technology is just the next step. And digital art has sold for millions of dollars, so it's clear that people appreciate it.

## No—art needs the human touch

Real art is made by hand using a brush, paint, canvas, clay, chisel, or other materials. It happens in real space and time, not on a computer or with the touch of a button. Part of what makes a work of art so special is that nothing else like it exists. But digital art can be copied again and again. There is no original. If you stand close to a painting by Rembrandt or a sculpture by Auguste Rodin, you see the materials the artist touched and his brushstrokes and chisel marks. That kind of work requires a level of skill and precision that can't be matched by a device.

**YES**

## Three reasons why digital art counts as real art

- 1 If a work is interesting or beautiful to look at, it fulfills the mission of art.
- 2 It's a digital world, so why shouldn't art be digital too? The artist is still putting their time, skill, and vision into the project.
- 3 Art is always changing with the times, and digital art is just one more development as the world advances.

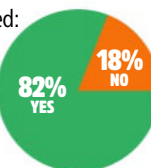
**NO**

## Three reasons why digital art does not count as real art

- 1 Real art is made by hand using handheld tools, not a computer or other device.
- 2 Art is meant to be unique, with no two pieces the same. Digital art can be copied many times, so there's no original piece.
- 3 Creating art requires human effort, skill, and precision. It's not the same if a tablet or computer does some of the work.

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if US students should learn the metric system. Your votes were easily measured:



## What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think digital art counts as real art or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





## Celebrating a teacher

Joyce Abbott is recognized for her life spent educating young people.

The award-winning sitcom *Abbott Elementary*, about a fictional school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was inspired by Joyce Abbott, who taught sixth grade for 27 years at Andrew Hamilton Elementary in West Philadelphia. One of her students, Quinta Brunson, went on to create *Abbott Elementary*, naming the show after her. Abbott retired last year, and the high school she attended is honoring her.

Before becoming a teacher, Abbott, who was born in Philadelphia, served in the military for 10 years. She earned her teaching degree through Troops to Teachers, a program that supports military veterans who want to become educators.

On September 26, Abbott was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Overbrook High School in Philadelphia. During the

ceremony, school district superintendent Tony B. Watlington Sr. said that Abbott represents “the very best of public education in this country.” Abbott was also honored with a street sign. “Joyce Abbott

Way” will now be the name for the portion of 59th Street in front of Overbrook High School.

At the ceremony, Abbott said, “I did this [work] not for the recognition but to truly make a difference in the life of a child.” As a teacher, Abbott was known to make home visits and buy groceries for students. She told

*The Philadelphia Tribune*, “I did whatever I could do to give them some glimmer of hope for some level of success in their life.”

Her message to other teachers is to remember how important their work is. “Every day that you’re going in...you are making a difference,” she said.



Joyce Abbott

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Philadelphia public school system is the ninth largest in the US, with about 200,000 students.

## Radio voice retires

On October 2, radio host Bob Boilen, age 70, retired after 35 years with National Public Radio (NPR). After starting out in TV and realizing he’d rather work in radio, Boilen began showing up at NPR’s offices in Washington, DC, until he was hired in 1988. Within a year, he was directing its news program. Next, Boilen created the show *All Songs Considered* before founding his most popular series, *Tiny Desk Concert*, which features live music by a range of artists. “I’m excited about some of the possibilities,” he said about retiring.



Bob Boilen



Louise Glück

## Mourning a writer

Louise Glück, regarded as one of America’s greatest writers, died on October 13 at age 80. Glück grew up in Long Island, New York, loved reading as a child, and went on to write 14 books of poetry. Her work was known for blending personal stories with themes of the natural world. Glück received some of the world’s top writing honors, including a Nobel Prize for Literature in 2020. Her poems capture “the quiet drama of nature and the emotions of everyday people,” President Barack Obama said when awarding her the National Humanities Medal in 2016.

## OVERHEARD



**“Captain America...sets a pretty high bar.”**

Chris Evans on aspiring to have the real-life moral integrity of the popular comic book superhero he has played for nearly 10 years



# Animals and the environment



**FUN FACT**  
Whale poop feeds phytoplankton, the tiny organism that produces half of the world's oxygen.

A family of sperm whales

## Cephalopod smarts

Researchers are learning more about how intelligence evolved by studying cephalopods, a group of animals that includes squid, octopuses, nautilus, and cuttlefish. These big-brained creatures learn very quickly. They can remember the past, play with objects, disguise themselves, use tools, and show self-control.



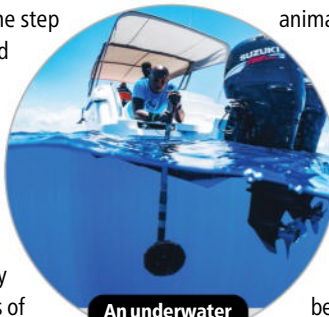
A cuttlefish

## Could humans speak to whales?

If you've seen the film *Finding Nemo*, you might remember the character Dory and her attempts to "speak whale." Now a team of scientists say they could be one step closer to doing that. They used computer technology to analyze whale sounds and think they have translated their first whale word.

Sperm whales don't speak a "language" in the same way humans do, but they communicate by using a series of clicks. Scientists from Project CETI, an organization dedicated to translating sperm whale language, have spent years listening to the creatures. They have placed

microphones on whales and planted underwater microphones off the coast of the Caribbean island of Dominica to overhear the animals' conversations.



An underwater microphone

Now the team is using artificial intelligence (AI, computer technology that allows a machine to imitate human intelligence by learning as it goes along) to find patterns in the whales' sounds. The scientists have

been trying to match the sound patterns with the whales' behavior to see if certain "words" match certain actions. This could reveal the meaning of each individual sound or set of sounds.

So far, the scientists think they understand the signal for "dive." They have also mapped out a kind of sperm whale phonetic alphabet (phonetic means turning sounds into symbols). However, like Dory, they have a long way to go before they can truly speak whale.

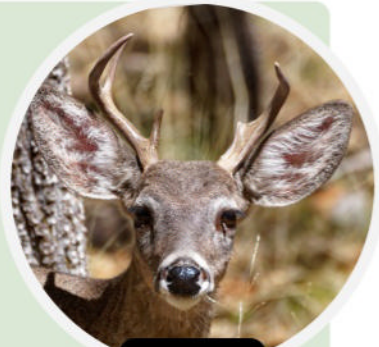
Unlocking the language of sperm whales could help to protect them. Whales are an important part of marine ecosystems (communities of living things) all over the world. Their bodies also store large amounts of carbon (a cause of climate change), which helps to reduce pollution in the atmosphere. If humans spoke "whale," it could be possible to warn them away from dangerous objects and areas, such as fishing nets they can become tangled in or shallow shorelines where they can get stranded.



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

### Sedona, Arizona

Sedona is known for its sweeping views of tall, steep sandstone formations that reach toward the sky and appear to change to different shades of red and orange in the rising or setting sun. The Arizona desert town attracts mountain bikers and hikers and is surrounded by miles of rivers and streams. Slide Rock State Park, named for its natural, 80-foot rock water slide, is just outside Sedona. Coues whitetail deer, javelina, coyote, and black bears live there. Native desert plants, like the prickly pear cactus, thrive in Sedona's landscape.



A Coues whitetail deer





## DID YOU KNOW?

An African elephant's trunk has two bendable "fingers" at its tip, while an Asian elephant's trunk has one.

An African elephant

## Wild elephants can solve puzzles

It is said that elephants never forget, but scientists now know they are also good at trying new things. After elephants in zoos were seen successfully solving problems, a new study has shown that wild elephants can solve puzzles with no training.

Researchers at a wildlife sanctuary in Thailand set up puzzle boxes with three compartments. Each compartment was filled with jackfruit, an elephant favorite, and opened in a different way. Using cameras, they watched 77 Asian elephants to see what they would do.

Of the 77 elephants, 44 approached and interacted with the puzzle boxes. By the end of the experiment, 11 elephants were able to retrieve the fruit from one compartment, eight got into two compartments, and five solved all three puzzles to get the treats.

Elephants that were more persistent, returning to try the boxes multiple times, had the most success. Researchers say the ability to problem-solve can help the animals survive in changing environments, and understanding how they do this could improve conservation efforts.

## Animal of the week

## Gentoo penguin



Experts have discovered how gentoo penguins, the fastest swimming birds, swim at up to 22 miles per hour. They use a technique called "feathering," in which they tilt their paddle-like wings at an angle to thrust their body forward.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 15 to 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Ice-free areas of Antarctica and islands
- **DIET:** Krill, small fish, and squid
- **SIZE:** Up to 35 inches tall, 11 to 18 pounds
- **FUN FACT:** These birds can dive deeper than 650 feet and stay underwater for seven minutes.



## Good week / Bad week



### Iberian lynx

The largest wetland in western Europe is being saved from destruction caused by illegal wells, thanks to an agreement by Spanish authorities. The plan is to protect Doñana National Park, an important habitat of the Iberian lynx.



A coquí frog

### Amphibians

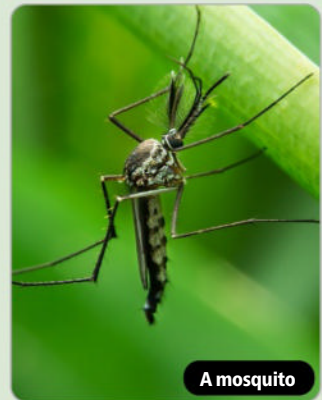
According to a new study, more than 40% of amphibian species are at risk of extinction due to climate change. Many amphibians have no scales, feathers, or fur to regulate their body temperature, making them especially vulnerable.



## "Why do some insects like human blood?" Miles, 11, Arizona

**Shinji Otsuru**  
Ectotherm keeper,  
Phoenix Zoo

Some insects like human blood because of its nutrients. Instead of chewing and digesting solid food, it is easier to suck on blood, which is already broken down. In the woods, bloodsucking insects target large mammals. In the city, insects may choose humans due to a lack of other large mammals.



A mosquito

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about the Phoenix Zoo at [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org).



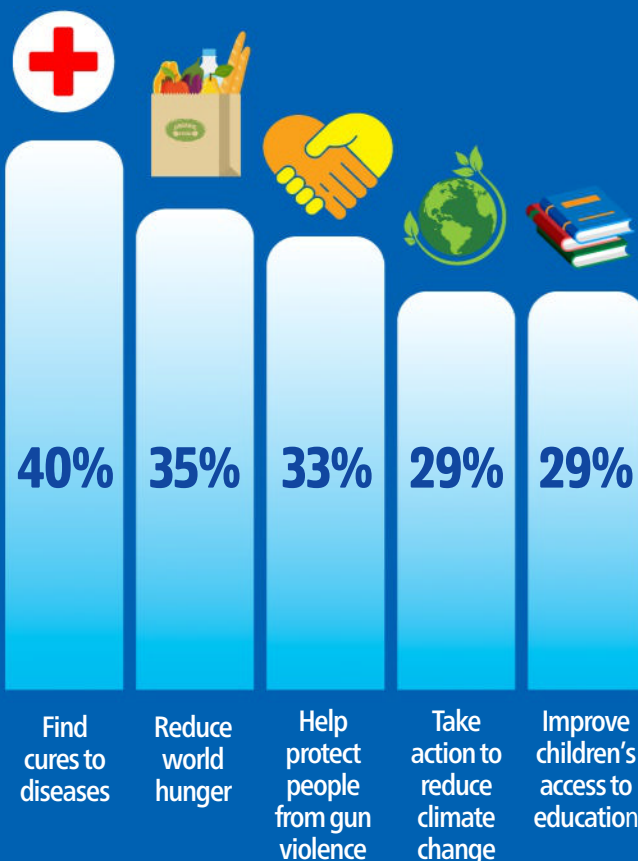
# All about what kids think

## You told us!

**A**t *The Week Junior*, we know young people have opinions about what's happening in the world and want to use their voices to make a difference. We worked with YouGov, a company that creates polls, to conduct our fourth annual Junior Voices survey about what's on kids' minds and what they want adults to know. The 702 children, ages 8 to 14, who responded care deeply about others and are not afraid to speak up to inspire positive change. Here's what they had to say.

### What are the actions you most wish would happen in the world?

Here are your top five priorities for making our planet a better place.



**82%**  
of kids said they should have a say on issues that affect them



**74%**  
are not afraid to express their opinion if they disagree with something



**71%**  
believe their actions can make a difference in the world now



**67%**  
talk about current events with friends and family at least every few days



**60%**  
often think about how climate change will affect their life as an adult



**44%**  
are curious to learn more about specific topics after discussing current events





## Which newsmakers inspired you most this year?

**1** Lionel Messi, global soccer star who joined Inter Miami CF



**2** A tie: President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, both of whom are running for re-election



**3** Taylor Swift, pop star who has set multiple music records this year



## What are the issues that you wish elected officials would pay the most attention to?

You said these seven actions should be the top priorities for lawmakers.



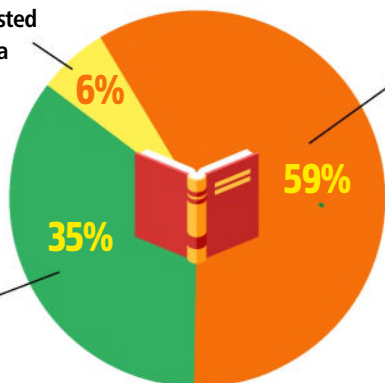
## How do you feel about book bans?

A record number of challenges were made to remove books from public schools and local libraries this year, and you have opinions about that.

Less interested in reading a book that is banned

More interested in reading a book if it makes headlines for being banned

No difference in interest



## What are your biggest concerns about school life?

You said these are the areas you are most worried about.

- 1 Putting a stop to bullying
- 2 Making sure schools are safe from intruders
- 3 Ensuring that all students are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, or other factors
- 4 Managing tests and homework



## If you could tell the adults of the world ONE THING, what would it be?

"Practice kindness."

"Give kids their space and respect their opinions."

"Take care of the environment."

"Kids are much smarter than you give them credit for."



"Be more understanding."

"Stop judging and bullying those who are different from us."

"We want you to pay more attention to our mental health."

"Listen to kids. Our future is on the line."



## Neanderthals hunted large cave lions

A new study has found that Neanderthals were the first humans to kill large, dangerous predators, like cave lions, and to use their furs for ceremonial purposes. The findings add to growing evidence that Neanderthals were not merely scavengers (ate food left behind by others) but were more sophisticated than previously believed.

Neanderthals lived about 400,000 to 40,000 years ago in Europe and parts of Asia and are the closest known relatives to modern humans. Cave lions were top predators in Europe and Asia that went extinct about 13,000 years ago. They were about 20% bigger than modern lions and are believed to have feasted on large bears.

The recent study was based on two sets of cave lion bones discovered in Germany. One is the nearly complete skeleton of a creature that lived about 48,000 years ago. It was found in the town of Siegsdorf in 1985. There are several cuts on the skeleton's bones, including one deep cut on a rib bone.

A research team including Gabriele Russo from Germany and Annemieke Milks from the UK used digital scans to re-create the angle and pattern of

the wound. They determined that the cut did not look like a bite mark by another animal, but it did resemble wounds made by wooden Neanderthal spears. The lion was probably lying on its side when the spear was thrust into it.

"The Siegsdorf findings provide the earliest concrete evidence of humans hunting down the formidable lion, the ultimate hunter of the animal kingdom," said Russo.

The team also studied bones from a cave lion's toe and paw that were found at a site called Unicorn Cave in Germany and are about 190,000 years old. Cut marks on them showed that the hunters had carefully removed the lion's pelt, leaving the claws intact. This indicates that the pelt had a special

purpose, such as being worn or serving as a hunting trophy, other than being removed in preparation for eating the animal.

Neanderthals were the only human ancestors living in Europe at the time when both of these creatures were alive. More research will help scientists understand their complicated behaviors and how they were similar to modern humans.



The skull of a cave lion found in Germany

### The effects of Neanderthals

Many modern humans outside Africa have small amounts of Neanderthal DNA (the chemical that carries all the information about a living thing's body and characteristics).



Research has found that some of that DNA causes people to have certain traits today.

A recent study of more than 5,900 people in South America found that there are three variations of a Neanderthal gene that make people more sensitive to pain from sharp objects. It does not, however, make them more sensitive to pain from heat or pressure. The study also found that people with Native American ancestry are more likely to carry these genes. For instance, people living in Peru were most likely to have Native American ancestry and also most likely to have the Neanderthal gene variant.





## Practicing math before bed helps us learn

People are more likely to remember math if they learn it immediately before bedtime, according to recent research. It might seem better to study when your mind is fresh in the morning, but scientists in the UK said that a good night's sleep helps the facts stick in your brain.

The study asked 184 adults in the UK, ages 18 to 40, to learn complex multiplication problems by heart. The problems required multiplying numbers from 22 to 33 by six, seven, eight, and nine—for example, 25 times eight. The researchers wanted to test how quickly each adult could remember the answer, rather than calculating it from scratch.

The volunteers first had to learn the answers before bed, between 8 and

10:45 pm, and they were tested the next morning. A week later, they were asked to learn answers when they woke up, between 7:30 and 10 am. They were tested at the end of the day.

In both experiments, the volunteers had about 10 hours between learning the problems and taking the tests. The people who learned multiplication problems before bed remembered them better, scoring an average of 20.7 out of 28. The morning learners scored 18.5.

Studies have shown that sleep can help strengthen memories, but most research has focused on how well people learn words. This study shows that the mind also soaks up numbers when we're asleep.

**TIME FOR BED**  
Humans are the only mammals that actively choose to delay going to sleep.

Learning things before bed can affect how we remember them.



The Parthenon Temple in Greece



## Ancient statues were colorfully painted

Researchers have found that some ancient white marble sculptures of Greek gods and myths were once painted with bright colors. The Parthenon Sculptures came from the Parthenon Temple, built 2,500 years ago in Athens, Greece. They were brought to the UK in the 1800s and are housed at the British Museum.

A team of scientists used different scanning techniques and types of light to detect tool marks and microscopic traces of paint on the

statues. They also analyzed the chemicals in the paints.

The team found a color called Egyptian Blue on parts of the statues that represented water and clothing, as well as purple and white in other spots. The paints were used to create floral, geometric, and other patterns to look like linen, wool, and skin.

The scientists think the paint helped convey a sense of the power and grandeur of the Athenian empire but faded in the rain and sun.



## A grill that uses AI to cook perfectly



A new grill uses AI, smart sensors, and infrared heat to cook a steak or other food in three minutes or less. Users set the preferred doneness level. The Perfecta grill measures the food's size, surface area, and fat content to determine the ideal cook time and temperature.

The food is placed in the grill vertically so high-heat burners, which reach up to 1,652° F, can cook both sides at once. Seergrills, the company in the UK that designed the Perfecta, said the device works so quickly that it uses up to 50% less energy than typical cooking methods.





# Reader photos of the week



## Perfectly patterned

Harper, 9, of Washington, DC, created a design with acorns and grass in her driveway.



## In full bloom

Noah, 11, of Illinois snapped this floral photo.







## **Fly by**

This photograph of a bird with flowers was taken by Avery, 11, of North Carolina.



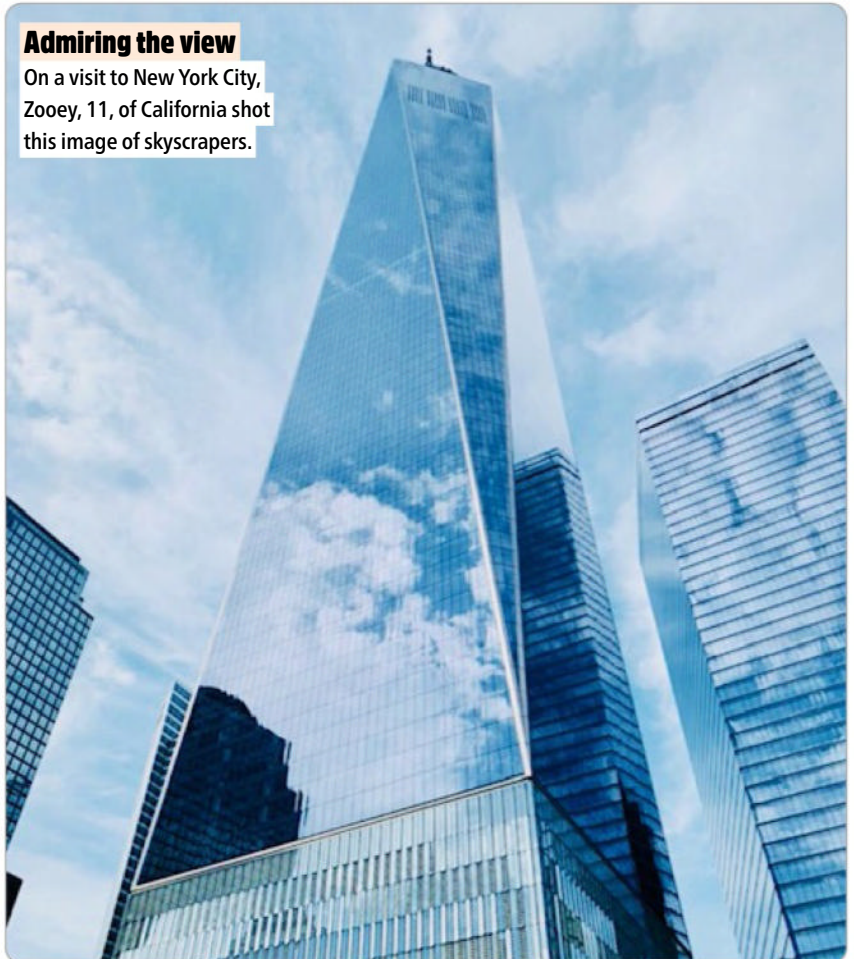
## **Checkmate**

Emma, 10, of Maryland captured this close-up while playing chess.



## **Sun shades**

Colorful umbrellas hang high in this picture by Swaha, 11, of Virginia.



## **Admiring the view**

On a visit to New York City, Zooey, 11, of California shot this image of skyscrapers.





# Sports



## FUN FACT

The NBA's youngest player this season is Gregory "GG" Jackson II, age 18, of the Memphis Grizzlies.

Victor Wembanyama  
of the San Antonio Spurs

## Major milestone



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, who will turn 39 in December, has begun his 21st NBA season. He is the oldest player in the NBA and among the best. The player with the longest NBA career was Atlanta Hawks star Vince Carter, who played 22 seasons.

# New season begins in the NBA

On October 24, the 2023–2024 NBA (National Basketball Association) season began. The defending champions are the Denver Nuggets, and experts predict they will have a strong season along with teams such as the Boston Celtics, the Phoenix Suns, and the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Nuggets kicked off their season with a 119–107 opening night win over the Los Angeles Lakers. Nuggets star center Nikola Jokic had a triple-double (double digits in three statistical categories) with 29 points, 13 rebounds, and 11 assists.

One of the most anticipated games the next day was in Texas, between the San Antonio Spurs

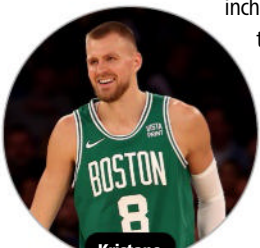
and the Dallas Mavericks. It marked the debut of Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama, this year's top draft pick. The 19-year-old from France is 7 feet, 4

inches tall. His first NBA basket was a three-pointer. He played a limited amount of time in the game due to foul trouble but still scored 15 points. Mavericks point guard Luka Doncic had a triple-double with 33 points, 13 rebounds, and 10 assists as his team won 126–119. In the Spurs' second game, a 126–122 win over the Houston Rockets, Wembanyama had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

In a thrilling matchup in New York City that night, the Celtics outlasted the New York Knicks,

108–104. The Celtics were up by nine at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but New York made a furious comeback, taking a 99–93 lead with four minutes to play. Celtics big man Kristaps Porzingis, who was traded to Boston by the Washington Wizards in the offseason, carried his new team to the win. He scored nine of the team's final 15 points and had 30 points in all.

This fall, NBA teams will compete in their first in-season tournament, the NBA Cup. It starts on November 3, and every game except the final also counts toward each team's regular-season record. Players on teams that reach the quarterfinals and later rounds will earn a cash prize. Members of the team that wins the championship on December 9 will receive \$500,000 each.



Kristaps  
Porzingis

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### RUGBY WORLD CUP

On October 28, the number one team in the world, South Africa (nicknamed the Springboks), beat the number three team, New Zealand (the All Blacks), 12–11, to win the 2023 Rugby World Cup. It is South Africa's second straight World Cup title and fourth overall, the most of any country. In the final, South Africa's Handre Pollard scored 12 points and his teammate Pieter-Steph Du Toit had 28 tackles.



Members of South  
Africa's rugby team

### INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

The US Women's National Team (USWNT) beat Colombia, 3–0, in a friendly (exhibition match) on October 29. Mia Fishel and Jaedyn Shaw scored their first goals for the USWNT. Shaw, age 18, became the youngest person to score for the USWNT since 2016.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On October 29, the Denver Broncos beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 24–9. Prior to the game, the Broncos had lost 16 straight times to the Chiefs.





**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The only Winter Pan American Games ever held took place in 1990.

US swimmers (from left) Paige Madden, Camille Spink, Kayla Wilson, and Kelly Pash with their gold medals

## US athletes shine at Pan Am Games

Athletes from North and South America, Central America, and the Caribbean have been competing at the 19th Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. It is the third-largest multi-sport competition in the world and includes events in 39 sports. The Games began on October 20 and will end on November 5. When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 31, the US was first in the medal count with a total of 171 medals, including 72 golds.

In artistic gymnastics, the US men and women took home 12 medals, including both team golds. In individual events, Kayla DiCello won the women's all-around, Zoe Miller took gold on the uneven bars, and Kaliya Lincoln won the floor exercise. For the men, Curran Phillips won gold on the parallel bars, and Donnell Whittenburg did the same on the rings.

In the first year skateboarding was included in the Games, the US took home three medals in the sport. Taylor Nye won gold in the men's park event, and Bryce Wettstein took bronze in the women's park event. Paige Heyn, age 15 and the youngest of Team USA's 631 athletes at the Games, won bronze in the women's street event. Team USA also did well in swimming, winning 46 medals, including 19 golds. Standouts included Camille Spink, Kayla Wilson, Kelly Pash, and Paige Madden, who won gold in the 4x200 freestyle relay. The US also won gold in the women's and men's 10-kilometer open water competitions.

Other sports where US athletes earned medals included cycling, canoe slalom, rowing, BMX racing, badminton, diving, 3x3 basketball, equestrian dressage and equestrian eventing, taekwondo, water skiing, and sport climbing.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **David Deru**

Team: **Ogden High mountain biking team**

**"I love having Dave as a coach. He is always trying to improve our skills and help us during races. He always makes us keep going and get stronger every day, even if we want to give up. If he notices that we are in the wrong position or gear, he will tell us how to fix it and get us going again."** Mason, 12, Utah



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



## Andrea Kitahata

AGE: 20 SPORT: SOCCER  
TEAM: STANFORD UNIVERSITY

**Early goals** I started playing soccer when I was 3, and I joined a club team when I was 5. I've aspired to play in a World Cup since then. I began to see my dream become a reality when I got called into the US Youth National Team camps at 13.

**Favorite stars** My family is from Argentina and Spain, so I grew up as a Lionel Messi fan. Catarina Macario and Marta are also my role models.

**Training plan** I practice almost every day, even if it is just some touches on the ball. As a forward, I work on my 1v1 attacking and passing—and I always finish with some shooting!



**Active life** In addition to soccer, I play for Stanford's varsity women's squash team. I also love to snowboard and wakeboard.

**Keeping calm** To handle the pressure of a big soccer game, I remind myself that the grass is still green and the ball is still round. In other words, it is the same sport I have been playing for almost 20 years, no matter how big the game is.

**Unbreakable bonds** My favorite things about soccer are competing and sisterhood. Nothing brings you better friends than fighting for each other on the field.

**Big dreams** My next goals are to win a national championship at Stanford, go professional, and hopefully play in the World Cup and Olympics.

**Friendly advice** Always remember why you fell in love with the game and never stop smiling while you play! You play the best when you are happy and having fun.



From left: Ms. Marvel, Captain Marvel, and Monica Rambeau of *The Marvels*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Captain Marvel first appeared in a 1967 comic and has been a male and female hero over the years.

## Superheroes unite in big film

In *The Marvels*, the sequel to the hit film *Captain Marvel*, a trio of women comes together to save the world.

In 2019, the superhero film *Captain Marvel* became the first female-led movie in Marvel history. A highly anticipated sequel, *The Marvels*, arrives in theaters November 10. It is rated PG-13 for action, violence, and brief language.

The film is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), where superhero characters have interconnected stories. The main characters are Carol Danvers (played by Brie Larson), who is Captain Marvel; her niece Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris), who was on the



Nia DaCosta

TV series *WandaVision*; and Kamala Khan (Iman Vellani), who is Ms. Marvel, a teenage Captain Marvel superfan who gains powers. She is the main character in the TV series *Ms. Marvel*. In the movie, the three women's powers end up intertwined, so that each time they use them they swap places, causing their worlds to collide. When a warrior-scientist threatens to destroy planets, the three join together to stop her.

The film is directed by Nia DaCosta. She is the youngest Marvel film director in history and the first Black female to direct a Marvel Studios

film. Larson said of DaCosta, "Nia's a nerd like me. She knows all about these comics and rolls so deep with all of this."

The movie was shot on eight film stages and had sets for five different planets, spaceships, a space station, a space elevator, an airplane, and three houses. At the core of the intergalactic adventure is "an emotional, character-driven story about these three women," DaCosta said.

Parris told *Entertainment Weekly* she is excited that the MCU has lead characters who are tough women from diverse backgrounds: "It's going to be really exciting just to see these smart, fun, intelligent, and troubled women find their way."

### 3 facts about Marvel

#### Big world

Marvel's history spans more than 80 years. There are about 80,000 characters in the comic book universe and more than 700 in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



#### Heroic first

Marvel's first female superhero was Susan Storm of the Fantastic Four. She made her debut in 1961. There have been three Fantastic Four movies. Jessica Alba, right, played Storm in two of them. An MCU version is in the works.



#### Special star

Many Marvel comic book characters, including Spider-Man and Captain Marvel, were created by Stan Lee, right. He famously had cameos (small roles) in Marvel films and died in 2018.





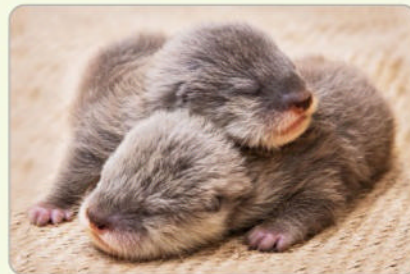


MusicClubKids!

**WOW!**  
The MusicClubKids!  
channel on YouTube  
has nearly 385  
million views.



## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



### Baby Animal Cam (Netflix)

New episodes of this show stream live on Thursdays at 2 pm ET from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in Ohio, but they are available to watch later. They feature animals such as otters and orangutans. Pop-up graphics during the episodes provide facts about each species.



### The Santa Clauses (Disney+)

The story from the hit holiday film franchise *The Santa Clause* continues in this series. It follows Scott Calvin, an average dad who becomes Santa. In season two, which premieres November 8, Scott is planning to retire, so he trains his son, Cal, to take over his job.



### Stand Up & Shout: Songs from a Philly High School (Max)

This new documentary centers on 10th graders in a music program at a public high school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They work with local musicians who help them write, compose, produce, and perform their songs.

## Show gives pop songs fun twists

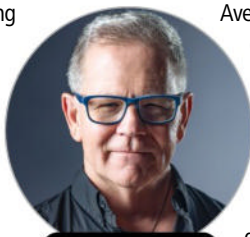
**M**usicClubKids! is a YouTube show with short, music-filled episodes based on pop songs. What makes them unique is that the songs have rewritten lyrics that tell a story that is relatable to kids, such as "You Just Got Detention," a spin on Charlie Puth's "Attention." An hour-long Christmas episode arrives later this month. It will include "Holidays," based on OneRepublic's "Runaway," and "Eye of the Reindeer," a take on the hit 1982 song "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. There will be covers of holiday classics, too.

The creator of MusicClubKids! is Eric Foster White, a songwriter and music producer who has been nominated for a Grammy Award. He was inspired to change pop song lyrics when his niece got a puppy and Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" was on the radio. White sang, "I'm in love with my doggy," a kid-friendly take on Sheeran's

more mature lyrics. He turned that line into a full song about sisters who get a dog. "As great as the music is, what makes the show successful is stories and the characters," White told *The Week Junior*.

MusicClubKids! began with two characters, Avery (Azzy Brooks, age 13) and Zoey (Rylee O'Brien, age 11), but now there are more, including Wyatt (Brayden Frasure, age 14), who sang "Supernatural," based on the Imagine Dragons song "Natural," in a Halloween episode. It is part of the group's new album, *Songs From the Hit Show—Season One: Extra Seasoning*.

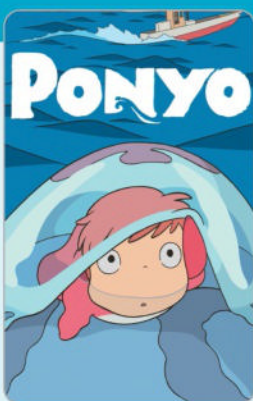
White's team always asks permission from the original artists to use their music, and none have said no. "We're trying to make these adaptations sound as good as the originals," he said. His goal for the series, meanwhile, is simple: "We're just trying to make kids laugh, play, and sing."



Eric Foster White



## READER RECOMMENDS



### Ponyo (Max or rent on demand)

"This animated movie is a cute, heartwarming story about a boy, Sosuke, who lives with his mother, Lisa. One day, Sosuke finds a weird goldfish in a bottle and decides to name her Ponyo and take care of her. Ponyo is actually a goldfish princess who has dreamed of life beyond the sea. Ponyo wants to be just like Sosuke and the other humans on land. When Ponyo's father finds out she has left home, he looks for her and captures her. But no matter what happens, Ponyo and Sosuke will always try to find a way to be with each other." Kara, 10, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Cryptozoology is the search for and study of legendary animals such as the Yeti or the Loch Ness monster.



Song of Nunu

# Game set in a frozen world

**S**ong of Nunu is a single-player adventure game. It was just released for the Nintendo Switch and PC and will be out for PlayStation systems and Xbox platforms in the future. It is a spin-off of the League of Legends franchise.

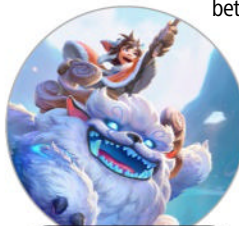
The star of the game is Nunu, a spunky, adventure-hungry 8-year-old boy from the Notai tribe. He has been separated from his mother for several years and wants to find her. He also wants to prove that he is a great warrior. During his first attempt to show his bravery and skill, he tries to kill a Yeti (a creature also called the abominable snowman). However, instead of taking down the beast, whose name is Willump, they become friends.

The pair set out to find Nunu's mother and uncover the hidden secrets of their frozen Freljord home. There's a dark

mystery settling over Freljord that threatens to take over the entire land. It's up to the pair, with help from some other League of Legends champions who make cameos in the game, to figure out what's happening and stop it.

Nunu and Willump are both playable characters, and you need to switch between them at different stages of the game. They both love throwing snowballs, but beyond that, they have very different talents and fighting styles. Willump is strong and ready to create an avalanche at any time. Nunu, meanwhile, has a magical flute as well as powers like the ability to freeze water.

The action combines platforming and puzzle-solving, with elements of single-player co-op. There is also time to chill out with Nunu and Willump as they play songs by the campfire.



Nunu and Willump



## PODCAST OF THE WEEK

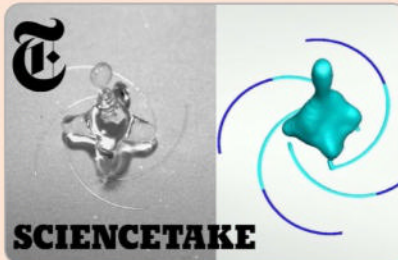
### CAMP REDRUM

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music

The setting for this fictional series is an abandoned camp, where janitor Eli has been trapped for years with his pet owl, Owliver Twist. When kids visit the camp, he tells them scary stories as he tries to plan his escape. The series includes reaction shows with discussions about the episodes.



## VIDEO OF THE WEEK



### SPINNING WATER DROPLETS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-SpinningWater](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-SpinningWater)

In this video from *The New York Times*, you get a quick lesson in physics while watching water droplets bounce, spin, twist, and move sideways in experiments recorded by Chinese scientists. The secret is a sticky pattern on a water-repellent surface that changes the way the droplets bounce.



## WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

### ASSISTED MELODY

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-AssistedMelody](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-AssistedMelody)

Make classical music with the help of three famous composers. This Google experiment lets you compose a tune on an on-screen organ, harpsichord, or piano, then "harmonize" it with a tune by Bach, Beethoven, or Mozart. You'll learn facts about the composers in the process.







## BOOK OF THE WEEK

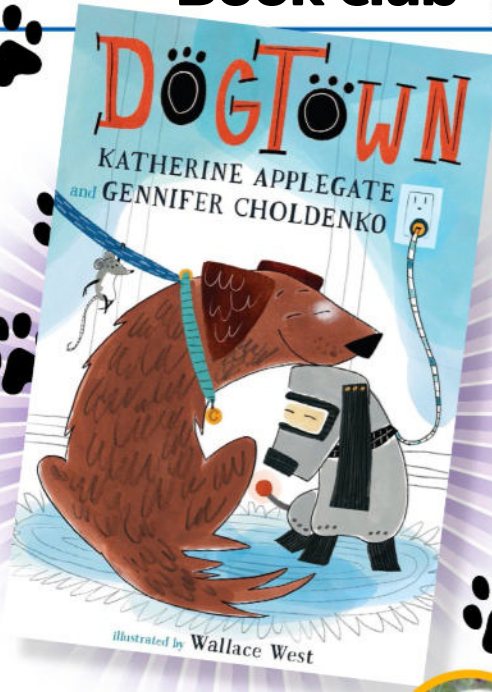
# Dogtown

By Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by Wallace West

(Feiwel & Friends)

Dogtown is a shelter for dogs who don't have families. Chance, a dog with three legs, has been living there since her family temporarily moved to another country and left her with a pet sitter who turned out to be irresponsible and abandoned her. Chance misses her family, but she tries to cheer up the other dogs at the shelter. She's not so sure about Metal Head, a robot dog with removable floppy ears and a tail that lights up. Real dogs and robot dogs don't usually get along, so it's not surprising that Metal Head keeps to himself. But when a child

picks Metal Head to be his reading buddy, Metal Head starts to miss his old life with a family. Chance agrees to help Metal Head escape after she witnessed how Metal Head came up with a smart plan to get an older Saint Bernard adopted. Through a twist of fate, Chance and her friend Mouse end up joining Metal Head on a harrowing adventure that involves a furniture store, cheese sandwiches, and the book *Green Eggs and Ham*. Although their plan doesn't go smoothly, better days are ahead. This heartfelt story is told from the perspective of Chance and is the first in a new series.



## ASK THE AUTHOR

### Katherine Applegate

We spoke to the co-author of *Dogtown*.



#### Does this book have a message?

Yes, be open to friendships, even when someone is different. There's a big difference between a robot dog and a real dog, yet a wonderful friendship evolves.

#### How did you and your co-author work together?

Writing with Gennifer Choldenko was delightful. We thought we'd alternate chapters, but it was better for one of us to write for a while

and then send it to the other, saying, "Now it's your turn."

#### What surprises kids the most about writing?

Kids can't believe that writing a book takes so long. It took us about three years to plan, write, and revise *Dogtown*.

#### Do you have dogs?

Yes, I have two little bitty dogs who are both rescues. Gennifer has an enormous German Shepherd.

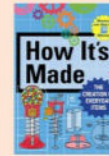
#### Top Thanksgiving dish?

Mashed potatoes are the best.



## 4 history books about common things

These nonfiction picks are packed with fascinating facts.



### How It's Made

By Thomas Gerencer

(Harry N. Abrams)

Find out how 50 everyday items, from sports gear to food to cars, came to be with this book that answers "How did they make that?" For instance, did you know that gumball machines were first installed in a New York City subway station in 1907? Ages 8–12



### How It Happened: Pizza

By Paige Towler and WonderLab Group

(Union Square Kids)

Tracing the history of grains, tomato sauce, and cheese, this book explains how pizza got its start more than 6,000 years ago. The photo-packed chapters toss out fun facts, such as this one: The amount of pizza eaten in one day in the US could fill up at least 75 football fields. Ages 8 and up



### Tasty: A History of Yummy Experiments

By Victoria Grace Elliott

(Random House Graphic)

This graphic novel, which comes out on December 5, follows three fairies who talk about the history of foods. Mac and cheese can be traced to an ancient cookbook from England. Maps show where different types of foods originated, and a few recipes are included too. Ages 8–12



### Who's Got Mail?

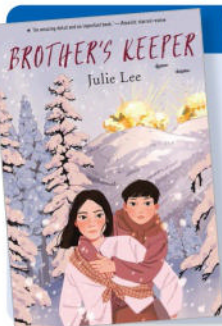
By Linda Barrett Osborne

(Abrams Books for Young Readers)

With pages designed to look like stamps, this book covers the history of the US Postal Service, from when it began more than 250 years ago to the present day. In the early 1900s, parents could use the mail service to send their children to visit relatives! A section on women and minorities in the post office is included. Ages 8 and up



## READER RECOMMENDS



### Brother's Keeper By Julie Lee

"This story is about a girl and her younger brother who get separated from their parents when escaping the Communists in North Korea. Together they make a perilous journey to South Korea through biting cold weather. The story is about the unbreakable bonds of family as well as keeping hope in a time of war. It teaches you about real history and is a suspenseful, nail-biting novel." Evelyn, 11, New York



# How to...

## DID YOU KNOW?

In a study from Stanford University, walking helped people feel more creative by about 60%.



## Go on an evening nature walk

Heading outside with your family after dark can reveal a new world around you.

As it starts getting dark earlier, it's a good time to consider going on a walk at dusk (when the sun has just set) with your family. You may be surprised how different your walking route feels—and looks and sounds—at this time of day. Here's how to get started.

### Plan your route

Talk to the adults who will be joining you about where to go on your evening walk. Sticking to a familiar route can help you feel comfortable knowing your way around in the dark. You could start your walk when the sun is just setting so your eyes begin to adjust before it's fully dark. You could also plan to take your walk on a night when the Moon is full or nearly full, which helps provide natural light.

### Walk together

You'll always want to walk with at least one trusted adult, for guidance and safety. Stay off roads, and stick to pedestrian paths. Make sure you wear layers to be prepared for chilly temperatures. Plan to wear light-colored reflective clothing, including shoes and hats with reflective stripes, so you're easy for drivers to spot.

### Let your eyes adjust

You can bring along a flashlight or wear a headlamp if you have one. Although it's important to bring sources of light with you, if the adults you're walking with feel

it's safe to do so, consider waiting to turn on flashlights or have just one person in the group lead the way with a flashlight. This will allow your eyes time to adapt to the dark. You should notice a difference in how well you can see within a few minutes, but it can take up to 20 minutes for your eyes to fully adjust.

### Use your senses

Most people tend to rely on their sense of sight. When that's dimmed in the dark, you may notice your other senses are sharper. It tends to be quieter outside at night since there are fewer people and cars. What do you hear? You can listen for any nocturnal animals that might be coming out (such as the creatures at right) or how an evening wind rustles the leaves. Try a listening game: Have everyone stop in a safe spot, close their eyes, and stay quiet for 30 seconds. When the time is up, tell one another what you heard.

### Stop and look up

If there is a place on your walk that doesn't have a lot of light pollution, bring along a blanket and take time to sit and stare at the night sky. You can start with the Moon: Where do you see it rising from, and what phase is it in? Is it closer to a full Moon or waning away for a new Moon? You can also look for planets, constellations, and maybe even a passing satellite.

Carry a flashlight.

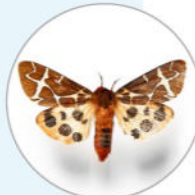


## 4 creatures that come out at night

These critters are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and are active in the dark.

### Moths

Through late fall, you're likely to see moths gathering around porch lights. There are more than 11,000 moth species in the US. How many can you spot?



### Owls

You may hear these birds before you see one. Listen for the "hoot hoot"

sound that many species of owls make, as well as a more screeching bird call, which may come from a common barn owl.

### Raccoons

These animals can often be seen at night prowling the neighborhood for food. You may spot them because their eyes glow in the dark. Raccoons can be fiercely protective of their territory, so if you see one, stay back.



### Bats

To spot bats, carefully watch around lamplights or other dimly lit

areas. They typically emerge from tree hollows about 30 minutes after sunset to feed on insects and plants.







## TAKE A BREAK FROM TECHNOLOGY

Spending too much time on devices can sometimes make you feel overwhelmed and keep you from other activities you could be enjoying. Here's what to do if you need a break.

**1. Set boundaries.** If you reach for your device every time you're bored, that might be a sign to take a break. Challenge yourself: See how long you can go without touching it, whether it's two hours or a full day. Then plan to take long breaks every day. You're likely to rediscover other things you enjoy.

**2. Give yourself mini breaks.** Sometimes you need to be on a device to do homework. To avoid being distracted, take mini breaks: Do 20 minutes of homework, then allow yourself 5 minutes to check messages and another 5 to get up and stretch before resuming work.

**3. Delete addictive apps.** Certain games or social platforms are addictive. You can delete those apps, even temporarily. Another option is to stop notifications.



**FUN FACT**  
The first nachos were created in 1940 by Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya, with three ingredients: tortilla chips, cheese, and jalapeño peppers.

**WARNING!**  
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove and oven.

## Bake up sheet pan nachos

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup corn kernels (cut from 1 large cob, or use frozen and thawed)
- 1 cup black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 teaspoon taco seasoning
- 8-to-10-ounce bag tortilla chips
- 8-ounce bag shredded Mexican cheese blend
- ½ cup sour cream
- Zest and juice of ½ lime
- 1 avocado, diced
- ½ cup chopped tomato

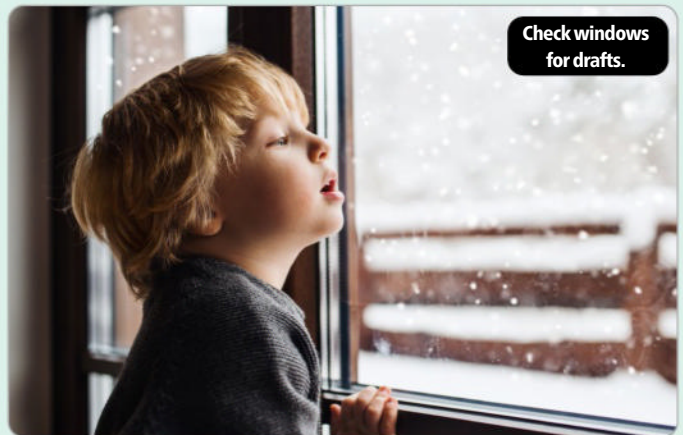
### Instructions

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400°F. Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium-high. Add the corn and cook until tender and lightly charred, about 5 minutes. Stir in the black beans and taco seasoning and heat through.
- 2.** Spread chips evenly onto a rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle the corn and black bean mixture over the top, then cover with a thick layer of the shredded cheese. Bake until cheese is melted and bubbly, about 5 minutes.
- 3.** Meanwhile, mix the sour cream with the lime zest and juice. Using oven mitts, carefully remove nachos from the oven. Top with the avocado, tomato, and lime sour cream. Serve nachos immediately. Makes about 8 servings.



## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK PREP YOUR HOME FOR THE COLD

As temperatures drop this time of year, it can be tempting to crank up the heat at home. However, using extra heat can waste energy and cause pollution. Before your family raises the thermostat, check your home for drafts. Feel around doors and windows for cold air seeping in—which can also mean warm inside air is getting out. To block drafts, you can place rolled-up blankets in those spots on colder days. You can also talk to an adult about using a smart thermostat, which automatically lowers the temperature when nobody is home. Finally, consider what you're wearing. Putting on a hoodie, socks, and slippers is an easy way to warm up without wasting energy.



**Check windows for drafts.**



## Word search

Can you find all these words associated with driving in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BRAKES  
CROSSWALK  
CURVE  
DEAD END  
DETOUR  
EXIT  
GPS  
GREEN LIGHT  
KEEP RIGHT  
LICENSE  
MERGE  
MILES  
ONE WAY  
PARKING

POTHOLE  
RED LIGHT  
RIDE  
ROAD  
ROUTE  
RUSH HOUR  
SIGNAL  
SIGNS  
SPEED LIMIT  
STOP  
STREET  
TRAFFIC  
U-TURN  
YIELD



ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## OFF SIDES

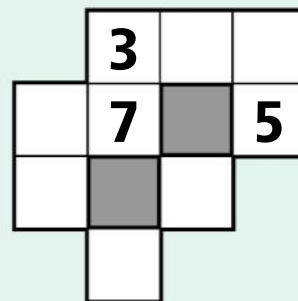
Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

D D E L N X

A T E   
 A T E   
 A T E

## Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



## FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as the first word with a letter inserted into the exact middle, like REAL and REGAL. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of wind had knocked over the inn's vacancy sign, so not a single \_\_\_\_\_ checked in the whole weekend.
2. We cleaned out our \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday, and after filling 25 \_\_\_\_\_ bags, we finally had room in there for the car.
3. My sister is always hungry after her Little League games, so while she \_\_\_\_\_ and changes clothes, Dad puts \_\_\_\_\_ of cookies in the oven.

## Spot the difference

These two multiple exposures of an orca jumping out of the water appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







Music was  
in the air.

## Pianist tries a daring performance

As an adventurous pianist, Alain Roche is known for taking his music to new heights. In fact, he recently performed a concert while hovering in the air above a building site in France. Roche and his piano were held by cables, and he played while looking up toward the sky. The musician said he wanted to work with "mechanical, metallic" sounds and that the dirt and grit on the building site contrasted well with the shiny, polished piano. Roche gave his first "vertical" concert 10 years ago and has toured far and wide with his unusual act.



Feel the burn.

Not the cuddliest  
doll around

## The world's hottest pepper

A new type of pepper has emerged as the spiciest on Earth. The chili, known as Pepper X, measured in at 2.69 million Scoville units (a measurement of spiciness). That's nearly double the rating of the previous title-holder, the Carolina Reaper, and about 500 times hotter than a jalapeño. The punch-packing pepper was developed by Ed Currie, founder of the PuckerButt Pepper Company. If "the jalapeño is a roller skate," Currie said, then Pepper X peppers are "space shuttles."



Steve Kueny in  
Huckle Berry

## Pumpkin paddler's big voyage

A Missouri man may have carved out his space in the record books by rowing 38 miles in a pumpkin. Steve Kueny grew the huge gourd, which he named Huckle Berry, until it weighed more than 1,200 pounds. Then he hollowed it out and set sail alongside a group of boaters. Using two kayak paddles, Kueny rowed along the Missouri River for nearly 11 hours. Guinness World Records is now reviewing his attempt. "I'm just a guy with a pumpkin and a whimsical sense of adventure out to have fun," Kueny said.

Real or  
fake?



Expecto  
diploma?

## A spellbinding new degree

Although Hogwarts School exists only in fiction, budding wizards and witches can now take a real course in the art of magic at the University of Exeter, in the UK. The new degree program, which starts in September 2024, is designed to teach students the secrets of magic. They'll learn which herbs make the perfect potions, how to pull a rabbit out of a hat, the secrets behind taming mice and owls, and even a spell or two. Is this real? Or have we conjured up a lie?\*

\*Fake! The University of Exeter is actually offering a degree in how magic is depicted in history and books, not how to cast spells. The degree program includes sections on dragons and the legend of King Arthur.





# Your turn

## Editor's note

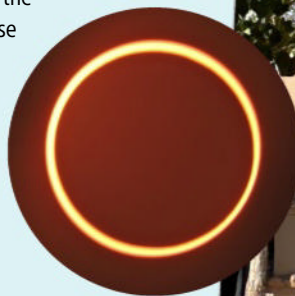
Since 2020, the first year *The Week Junior* was published in the US, we've conducted an annual survey of kids' opinions about a wide variety of topics, from current events to world problems. We always want to know what you think! This year's results are revealed on pages 12 and 13. You told us you talk about the news with family and friends, want a say on issues that affect you, and believe your actions can make a difference. You also said you wish elected officials would address gun violence, food insecurity, and inflation. And you thought soccer star Lionel Messi was the number one newsmaker of the year. My favorite section of the survey is one where kids tell adults what's on their mind, and this year's comments included some wise advice: "Practice kindness." "Be more understanding." "Listen to kids. Our future is on the line." We want you to know that we've heard you—and we agree with you 100%.

Andrea Barbalich  
Editor-in-Chief



## Capturing the solar eclipse

“Taking pictures of the ring of fire solar eclipse this year was so fun! On October 14, my family and I woke up at 6 am and drove to Bluff Fort in Bluff, Utah. It was cool watching the eclipse start with just a little chunk from the top. It got bigger and bigger until there was just a ring of red. It grew small again as it passed. I made a filter for my camera using solar film so I could safely take pictures of the eclipse, and I got a lot of awesome photos, like the one included here. I really hope I can visit my sister in Texas and see the total eclipse again in April 2024.”



Linden, 12, Utah

**JOKES OF THE WEEK**  
Why can you never see an elephant in your pajamas?  
It would never fit in them!

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



### Comfort Zone Camp

This organization supports children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, primary caregiver, or other significant person. It organizes camps where they can connect with peers who have also lost loved ones and participate in activities and discussions to help them heal. Since the group's founding in 1999, it has helped more than 23,000 children. Find out more at [comfortzonecamp.org](http://comfortzonecamp.org).



## ANNUAL COMPETITION

### Enter our Winter Cover Contest!

If you would like to see your artwork on the cover of *The Week Junior*, here is your chance! We are accepting entries to our 2023 Winter Cover Contest. At right is the winning cover from our 2022 competition. The drawing form and consent form that are needed to enter can be found at [theweekjunior.com/activities](http://theweekjunior.com/activities). Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, and how well they reflect the winter theme and *The Week Junior*. Be sure your artwork is in color! When you're finished, have a parent fill out the consent form and email it with a digital image of your artwork to [covercontest@theweekjunior.com](mailto:covercontest@theweekjunior.com). The deadline to apply is November 8!



THE WEEK  
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I had a great time making the crispy monster treats with my aunt, and they tasted good too!" **Hannah, 11, Rhode Island**

"When I saw these haunted houses, I knew they were a perfect craft to decorate our house with for Halloween!" **Meyer, 11, North Carolina**



"This was the best treat I've ever had!" **James, 8, North Carolina**



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Jorge Diaz-Velez**

School: **Marin Horizon School**

"I am nominating my Spanish teacher, Jorge Diaz-Velez, because Jorge is a great teacher! We learn a lot and it is also really fun. We learn Spanish vocabulary, sing songs, tell stories, and play games.

Jorge is also my older brother Ziggy's Spanish teacher. Ziggy says Jorge is a great teacher when you are older and Spanish gets more complicated."

Marsden, 9, California

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**

**Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**



## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

### Off sides

- dated
- eaten
- latex

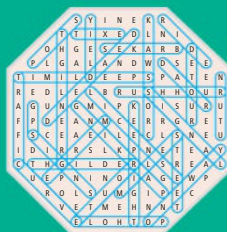
### Fill in the blanks

- 1. gust, guest
- 2. garage, garbage
- 3. bathes, batches



### Word ladder

Unused letters: In England, speed bumps are called sleeping policemen.



## Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1 c) Metal Head 2 True 3 a) Australia 4 Dive 5 True 6 c) Los Angeles Lakers 7 Abbott Elementary 8 False. Pepper X is the spiciest. 9 c) Yeti 10 False. It was first used in the 1980s. 11 New Hampshire 12 b) Iberian lynx 13 MusicClubKids! 14 True 15 b) Piano

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



# Quiz

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

**1** In the book *Dogtown*, a dog named Chance befriends a robot dog named what?

a) Wire Head b) Gear Head c) Metal Head

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**2** True or false? The Parthenon Sculptures from ancient Greece were once painted with bright colors.

True ☐ False ☐

**3** President Biden welcomed the leader of which country for an official state dinner on October 25?

a) Australia b) England c) New Zealand

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**4** Scientists think they have figured out the whale sounds that translate to what English word?

**5** True or false? *The Marvels* director Nia DaCosta is the first Black woman to direct a Marvel Studios movie.

True ☐ False ☐

**6** Which team did the Denver Nuggets defeat to kick off the NBA season?

a) Phoenix Suns b) Milwaukee Bucks

c) Los Angeles Lakers

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**7** What is the name of the television show inspired by real-life teacher Joyce Abbott?

**8** True or false? The Carolina Reaper is the spiciest pepper on Earth.

True ☐ False ☐



**9** In the video game *Song of Nunu*, what kind of mythical creature does Nunu become friends with?

a) Bigfoot b) Swamp man c) Yeti

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**10** True or false? The term "digital art" was first used in the 1990s.

True ☐ False ☐

**11** Which US state held a contest to allow fourth graders to design its "I Voted" stickers?

**12** Doñana National Park in Spain is a habitat for what species of wild cat?

a) Sand cat

b) Iberian lynx

c) Clouded leopard

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

**13** What is the name of the YouTube show that features pop songs with lyrics rewritten for kids?

**14** True or false? The three astronauts who recently arrived at the Chinese space station are an average age of 38.

True ☐ False ☐

**15** Alain Roche recently played what instrument while suspended in mid-air looking up at the sky?

a) Guitar b) Piano c) Saxophone

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

## THE WEEK Junior

**Editor-in-chief:** Andrea Barbalich  
**Executive editor:** Mindy Walker  
**Senior editors:** Gail O'Connor, Jennifer Li Shotz  
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**Senior director, consumer marketing:** Leslie Guarnieri  
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**Publisher:** Stevie Lee (stevie.lee@futurenet.com)  
**Account director:** Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)  
**US manufacturing and distribution manager:** Lori Crook  
**Editor-in-chief, The Week:** Theunis Bates  
**Digital director, TheWeek.com:** Holden Frith

**Reader submissions:** hello@theweekjunior.com  
**Customer service:** TWJcustserv@cdfulfillment.com  
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